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Chief, Intelligence Information Staff, ONS

22 September 1959

ATTN : [REDACTED] 25X1A9a  
THRU : Acting Chief, Industrial Division, ONS  
Chief, Manufacturing Sectors Branch, D/I

Requirements on the display of welding equipment at the Soviet exhibition in New York City.

1. Background. The electro-slag welding method, developed by the Soviets, has been hailed in Communist China as a means to overcome their critical shortage of large-scale metal processing equipment in machine building. This method is claimed by Communist sources to have a key advantage, in that a building block process can be substituted for large castings. American machine builders are not familiar with this method and apparently prefer castings to weldments in many instances where stability and rigidity are required.

The Soviets displayed an electro-slag welding machine at the Soviet exhibition in New York and briefly described the process on placards.

2. Requirement. Ascertain reaction of American Welding Society to this exhibit. Does it have the superior advantages claimed? If better understood, would it be more widely used in US? Mr. Fred Plummer is Secretary of the Society, which is headquartered at 33 West 39th Street, New York 18, New York. The Society publishes the Welding Journal monthly. Will a report on the Soviet exhibit appear in this publication?

3. Priority. This information is required for a current project deadline late October. It is requested that at least an initial report be obtained by 1 October.

4. Questions concerning this requirement should be addressed to [REDACTED] attention 2922. 25X1A9a

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